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November 25, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor & Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist *WH*

THRU: Mary Ann Wright, Associate Director, Mining *LK*

RE: Compliance Conference, Star Stone Quarries, Inc., Cotton Thomas Mine, M/003/024, Box Elder County, Utah, Peoa Blonde Quarry, M/043/012, Summit County, Utah and Heber Quarry, M/051/001, Wasatch County, Utah

Date of Meeting: November 18, 2002

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss compliance concerns noted at several of the Star Stone Quarries mine sites and potential mitigation measures to resolve the concerns (Cotton Thomas, Peoa Blonde and Heber Quarries).

Location of Meeting: Division Offices (Copper Room)

Time of Meeting: 1:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Participants: Lon and Beverly Thomas - Star Stone Quarries; Mary Ann Wright, Wayne Hedberg, and Lynn Kunzler - DOGM

On November 18, 2002, Division staff and management met with Lon and Beverly Thomas at the Division offices to discuss a number of compliance related issues noted during more recent Division inspections of the above referenced mine sites.

Mr. Hedberg initiated the meeting by recognizing and acknowledging the progress made and difficulties overcome to date by the operator in acquiring permits for their mining operations in Utah. He expressed the Division's desire to develop an open dialogue and encourage a positive, cooperative, working relationship between operator and regulator. Ms. Wright also informed the operator of the status of the Division's progress in developing new compliance and enforcement rules to support and interpret more recent enforcement language changes made to the Mined Land Reclamation Act. Discussion and proposed resolution of the compliance concerns at the three mines followed.

Heber Quarry

Mr. Thomas said this site is now closed for the year. He agreed to relocate the blasting sign to the entrance of the mine site near the main access gate. He also said that he would clean out the sediment trap to increase its volume so it would become functional again. He said he would try and visit the mine site within



the next few days to look at the road drainage concerns. If the drainage did not appear to be routed into the sediment trap, then he agreed to make the necessary changes to the road contour or to re-implement the water bars as warranted. It was agreed that these tasks would be completed by the end of November, 2002.

### Peoa Quarry

Mr. Thomas agreed to have the culvert cleaned out to allow unrestricted flow of drainage under the access road fill. He said that he had already arranged to have the trash and litter cleaned up from within the drainage. We told him that he would need to modify his approved mine plan to include the as-built culvert placed under the fill placed in the drainage.

Mr. Thomas said that he had moved his product stockpiles back to the new property boundary line and the area has had topsoil replaced and has been seeded already. The Division will look at the revegetation efforts during the next site visit.

We discussed the concerns over the possible removal or relocation of some of the permit boundary markers. Mr. Thomas said he did not believe this had happened, but admitted he had moved one post to mark the BLM mineral ownership boundary, so his workers didn't impact this area. He was advised to reinstall the marker to its original location so that the disturbed area boundaries remain unchanged.

Mr. Kunzler discussed the need to modify the mine maps and text of the original permit application to address the changes in property ownership in the southwest portion of the permit area, to include all areas of current disturbance (if indeed the permit area markers were buried or removed to the north and north east), and to correctly identify mineral ownership (private and BLM).

We agreed upon a mitigation timeframe of January 3, 2003 to submit the required changes to the approved mine plan. The culvert will be unplugged by the end of November, 2002.

### Cotton Thomas Quarries

Mr. Thomas indicated that he will submit a permit revision to include the increased acreage to his permit area. He will also look at other potential areas that he may need to disturb within the next 4-5 years, including re-aligning part of the access road from the camp area to the junction with the roads to the Little Heart and Antique White Quarries. The existing road would then be reclaimed. Updated changes to the mine plan and maps that will indicate the operators development sequence and define the permit area will be submitted by mid-February, 2003.

Topsoil was not salvaged as required by the permit in the areas of expansion for the Klondike Gold, Aspen Frost and Buckskin Quarries. Approximately 5,000 cubic yards of soil needs to be located and protected. Mr. Thomas indicated that there are soil resources adjacent to these quarry areas of sufficient depth to make up the shortfall. This will need to be verified next spring when access to the site is possible. We asked him to identify the location(s) on a map where this material will come from as part of his permit modifications. The topsoil deficit will be salvaged and stockpiled (or its in-place location clearly identified) by June 30, 2003.



The need to place permanent markers such as t-posts to clearly mark the limits of the permitted disturbance area was discussed. This will also need to be done in the spring (mid June), prior to the start-up of quarrying operations. T-posts should be placed 25-30 feet apart to assure work crews can clearly determine the extent of the permitted disturbance area.

Mr. Thomas expressed a desire to perform a test boring or a bulk sample of stone from a location southeast of the campsite. How should he permit the proposed activity? A separate exploration permit application, or a permit amendment to the Cotton Thomas mine plan were options discussed.

Although a timeframe was not discussed during the meeting, appropriate adjustments to the reclamation bond will need to be made before operations start up again in the spring of 2003.

The meeting concluded with a suggestion that we get together once or twice a year to discuss Division and operator observations and/or compliance concerns at all their mine sites. Mr. Thomas is compiling a list of items to inspect at each of his quarries to assure they stay in compliance. He would appreciate the opportunity for the Division to accompany him on these inspections to assure all bases are being covered. Mr. Thomas agreed to contact the Division prior to going out to the Peoa and Heber quarries so that the Division could meet him on site to assure the Division concerns are adequately addressed.

Originally, this meeting's agenda was to include discussions for the Aragonite and Torrey sites as well. Since Tom Munson could not attend, it was agreed to postpone the discussion of these operations until sometime during the week of January 6-10, 2003. However, we did express our serious concern with the public safety hazards at the Aragonite mine site which need to be secured in a timely manner. We showed the operator photos of these open features during the meeting.

Copies of the following information were provided to the Thomas's during the meeting for their records:

- GPS map of Cotton Thomas disturbances (historic, permitted and current)
- Photos of areas of concern at the Heber, Peoa and Cotton Thomas mine sites

jb

cc: Lon Thomas, Star Stone Quarries  
Mary Ann Wright, OGM

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